

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Figs. 4-6, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 4-6. In Fig. 6, previously omitted element angle "B" has been added.

The attached sheet of drawings further includes the addition of Figs. 7-9. These sheets, which include Figs. 7-9, supplement the original sheets including Figs. 1-6. Figs. 7-9 depict subject matter originally recited in claims 6, 7, 9, and 11 but not previously shown in any drawing.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
New Drawing Sheet containing Figs. 7-9

Remarks/Arguments

Examination of the above-identified application in view of the present preliminary amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 4, 15-17, and 48 are cancelled. Claims 1-55 are pending.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference "angle B" mentioned in the description. Fig. 6 has been amended to include the reference to angle B, and thus it is believed that the objection has been overcome.

The drawings were further objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the circular cross-sectional shape of the at least one channel (claim 4), the longitudinally offset chevron junctions (claim 6), the ribs being mounted on opposite sides (claim 7), the lateral offset of the ribs (claim 9), the offset gaps in each adjacent rib (claim 11), and the stator blade configuration (claim 48) were deemed not to be shown in the drawings.

Claims 4 and 48 have been cancelled and thus the objection to claims 4 and 48 is moot.

New Figs. 7-9 are presented, which represent the features objected to in claims 6, 7, 9, and 11. The original specification has also been amended to include a description of new Figs. 7-9. It is believed that since the subject matter of claims 6, 7, 9, and 11 was presented in the original filing of the application, as well as United Kingdom Appln. No. 0222352.7, to which the present application claims priority, no new matter is being presented neither by new Figs. 7-9 nor the accompanying amendment to the specification. Since it is believed that the features

recited in claims 6, 7, 9, and 11 are accurately and fully shown in new Figs. 7-9, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claims 6, 7, 9, and 11 is overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,343,474 to Beeck et al. (hereafter "Beeck '474") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,612,808 to Lee et al. (hereafter "Lee").

Claim 17 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, the subject matter of claim 17 has been substantially incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Beeck '474 in view of Lee, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 3 and 47 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 1, 6, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,068,445 to Beeck et al. (hereafter "Beeck '445") in view of Lee.

Claim 17 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, the subject matter of claim 17 has been substantially incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Beeck '445 in view of Lee, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 6, 31, and 33 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 15-16, 19-20, 29-30, 32, 34-36, 38-46, and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,695,321 to Kercher (hereafter "Kercher") in view Lee.

Claim 17 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, the subject matter of claim 17 has been substantially incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Kercher in view of Lee, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 2, 5, 7-11, 19-20, 29-30, 32, 34-36, and 38-46 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein. Claim 48 has been cancelled and thus the rejection to claim 48 is moot.

Claims 15-16 have been cancelled and thus the rejection to claims 15-16 is moot.

The subject matter of claim 17 has also been substantially incorporated into independent claim 49. Claim 49 is believed to be substantially similar to claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 49 patentably defines over Kercher in view of Lee, and is therefore allowable.

The subject matter of claim 17 has also been substantially incorporated into independent claim 50. Claim 50 is substantially similar to claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 50 patentably defines over Kercher in view of Lee, and is therefore allowable.

Claims 4, 12-13, and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kercher in view of Lee.

Claim 4 has been cancelled and thus the rejection to claim 4 is moot.

Claims 12-13 and 21-28 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this matter to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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